

2026 – 44th Annual Lake Havasu Striper Derby Rules

PLEASE READ THESE RULES CAREFULLY AS THEY APPLY TO ALL CONTESTANTS

- 1) All tournament boats must have a minimum of 2 anglers during tournament hours. Only team members may be in the boat during fishing contest hours. More than one team may be permitted on one boat during the event. Each team on that boat MUST keep their fish separated for weigh in purposes. The additional team on a boat may be a single angler who fishes as his/her own team. WON prefers a team consisting of 2 anglers, but since this is a family event, we will allow a team to be a single angler on another team's boat or 2-angler team on another team's boat.
- 2) Due to the size and weather conditions on Lake Havasu, no boats under 12 feet in length will be allowed to participate in the tournament for safety reasons.
- 3) All boats must be equipped with Coast Guard approved equipment, including life vests, paddles, signal devices, bailing devices, and working running and anchor lights.
- 4) All children 16 years of age and under who are entered in the contest must wear life vests while in the boat during tournament hours.
- 5) All contestants will be issued a wristband with their raffle number embossed on it. These wristbands must be worn during the event & cannot be removed until the closure of the event on May 3rd, 2026.
- 6) No licensed striper guides conducting business on Lake Havasu may be a part of a team or assist any team during the duration of the Striper Derby.
- 7) Pre-Fishing with a licensed guide is permitted up until 5 PM on May 1st.
- 8) All fish must be caught in the waters of Lake Havasu or the Colorado River between Parker Dam and the I-40 Bridge. All fish must be caught live, with rod and reel, fair game hooked, and not snagged. Contestants found fishing outside these areas will be disqualified.
- 9) All California Dept of Fish & Wildlife and Arizona Dept of Game and Fish rules must be observed during the tournament. Any team cited for violating any Federal, California, or Arizona Fish and Game laws during the contest will be disqualified.
- 10) Lake Closures – Lake Havasu and the river will be closed to fishing on Friday, May 1st from 5:00 PM PST to 5:00 AM PST Saturday May 2nd. The tournament will commence on Saturday May 2nd, from 5:00 AM PST to 4:00 PM PST. Lake Havasu and the river will then be closed to fishing from 4:00 PM PST on Saturday May 2nd until 5:00 AM PST on Sunday May 3rd. Tournament fishing will then resume from 5:00 AM PST on Sunday May 3rd until the close of the event at 1:00 PM PST on Sunday, May 3rd, 2026. ANY TEAM FOUND FISHING ON THE LAKE DURING CLOSED HOURS WILL BE DISQUALIFIED – NO EXCEPTIONS!
- 11) All fish weighed during either day of the tournament, MUST come from team boats docked/beached at the Riviera Marina ONLY. All team members must be present when offloading fish on the docks. No WALK-IN or TRAILERED-IN fish will be weighed by tournament staff.
- 12) Derby Fishing Times – The tournament will start on Saturday, May 2nd at 5:00 AM PST and cease at 4:00 PM PST on Saturday May 2nd. Scales will open on Saturday at 1:00 PM PST and close at 4:00 PM PST on Saturday May 2nd. Weigh-ins will occur at the Riviera Marina both days. On Sunday, May 3rd, fishing will commence at 5:00 AM PST and end at 1:00 PM Sunday May 3rd. On Sunday May 3rd, the scales will be open at the Riviera Marina starting at 11:00 AM PST until 1:00 PM. The tournament director will establish and keep the official time for the event. Any contestant arriving late to the scales will not have their fish count towards the event.

13) Boats on the Water – No boats will be allowed to leave their moorings, beachings, or docks prior to 4:00 AM on the morning of tournament days May 2nd or May 3rd.

14) Limits/Size – Only Striped Bass 14 inches or longer will count in the derby. Fish turned into the weigh masters, which are shorter than 14 inches may incur a 1-pound deduction from the total weight submitted that day. Each team is allowed a daily limit of 10 Striped Bass. Any team checking in more than 10 Striped Bass may incur a 1-pound per fish penalty which will be deducted from their total weight.

15) All derby boats must keep a distance of 75 feet between them when anchored or drift fishing. Boats which are trolling are exempt from this rule.

16) The tournament director has the sole discretion to disqualify any catch for reasons they deem to violate tournament rules or the spirit of the competition. The decisions of the tournament director are final and may not be appealed. Official protests must be filed in writing with the tournament director no later than 2:00 PM PST on Sunday, May 3rd.

17) Merchandise prizes and trophies will be awarded to the Top 10 combined total weighing teams and the Top 5 Biggest Fish winners after two days of competition.

18) All teams entering the “ALL IN” \$275 entry will qualify for both Saturday and Sunday Blind Bogey winnings and the general TOP 5 Big Fish optional payouts and prizes. All Top 5 Big Fish must be accompanied with video proof of that fish being landed by a cell phone or video camera which is time and date stamped. Videos must be provided prior to the awards show commencement.

19) WON will once again offer the High Roller (\$375) option at this year’s event. The High roller option is an additional \$100 that is put in a separate Big Fish pool and paid back to the Top 3 Big Fish High Rollers. First place will receive 50%, Second place 30% and Third place 20% of the pool.

20) The tournament director reserves the right to refuse entry to any team for reasons deemed detrimental to other participants pertaining to the safety and/or fairness of the competition.

21) All Striper Derby participants will receive one wrist band which is also your raffle ticket good for the grand prize boat drawing at the time they check in. These wrist bands will NOT be replaced if lost. All wrist band numbers are thrown into the grand prize drawing whether the contestant has previously won a raffle item or not. Prize winners are responsible for all taxes, licenses, and transportation costs associated with any prize. Prizes not redeemed or picked up by the contestant will be forfeited within 60 days. All raffle contestants must be present to win.

22) Entry fee cancellations: - Refunds of entry fees will not be made for any reason within 14 days of the start of the competition due to non-refundable costs incurred by Western Outdoors for facilities, catering and contest supplies. Good Luck to all Striper Derby Contestants!